THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A curb forming machine comprising:

a frame;

a hopper carried by the frame and including an upper hopper section, for receiving curb forming material, and a lower hopper section;

a curb extrusion mold adjacent the lower hopper section for receiving the curb forming material therefrom to extrude a curb; and

a plunger and associated drive for moving the plunger along a path of travel including a forward position to force the curb forming material from the lower hopper section into and through the curb extrusion mold, an upward position so that the plunger extends into the upper hopper section, and a rearward position away from the curb mold and in the lower hopper section.

2. A curb forming machine according to Claim 1 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is greater than the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions.

3. A curb forming machine according to Claim 2 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is about seven inches, and the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions is about four inches.

4. A curb forming machine according to Claim 1 wherein the drive comprises:

a motor; and

a gear box connecting the motor to the plunger.

5. A curb forming machine according to Claim 4 wherein the gear box comprises an output shaft; and wherein the drive further comprises an eccentric arm rotatably connecting the plunger to the output shaft.

6. A curb forming machine according to Claim 5 wherein the drive further comprises:

a first shaft mounted to the frame;

a second shaft connected to a medial portion of the plunger; and

a plurality of rocker arms pivotally connecting the second shaft to the first shaft.

7. A curb forming machine according to Claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of wheels connected to the frame; and

a steering mechanism connected to the wheels for steering the curb forming machine.

8. A curb forming machine comprising:

a frame;

a hopper carried by the frame and including an upper hopper section, for receiving curb forming material, and a lower hopper section;

a curb extrusion mold adjacent the lower hopper section for receiving the curb forming material therefrom to extrude a curb; and

a plunger and associated drive for moving the plunger along a path of travel to force the curb forming material from the lower hopper section into and through the curb extrusion mold;

the drive comprising

a motor;

a gear box connected to the motor;

a first shaft mounted to the frame;

a second shaft connected to a medial portion of the plunger; and

a plurality of rocker arms pivotally connecting the second shaft to the first shaft.

9. A curb forming machine according to Claim 8 wherein the drive moves the plunger along a path of travel including a forward position to force the curb forming material from the lower hopper section into and through the curb extrusion mold, an upward position so that the plunger extends into the upper hopper section, and a rearward position away from the curb mold and in the lower hopper section.

10. A curb forming machine according to Claim 9 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is greater than the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions.

11. A curb forming machine according to Claim 10 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is about seven inches, and the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions is about four inches.

12. A curb forming machine according to Claim 8 wherein the gear box comprises an output shaft; and the drive further comprises an eccentric arm rotatably connecting the plunger to the output shaft.

13. A curb forming machine according to Claim 8 further comprising:

a plurality of wheels connected to the frame; and

a steering mechanism connected to the wheels for steering the curb forming machine.

14. A method of forming a curb comprising:

providing curb forming material into a hopper including an upper hopper section for receiving the curb forming material, and a lower hopper section;

providing a curb extrusion mold adjacent the lower hopper section for receiving the curb forming material from the lower hopper section and extruding a curb; and

moving a plunger along a path of travel including a forward position to force the curb forming material from the lower hopper section into and through the curb extrusion mold, an upward position so that the plunger extends into the upper hopper section, and a rearward position away from the curb mold and in the lower hopper section.

15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is greater than the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions.

16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein the path of travel of the plunger to the upward position is about seven inches, and the path of travel between the rearward and forward positions is about four inches.

17. A method according to Claim 14 wherein moving the plunger comprises:

rotatably connecting a first end of the plunger to an eccentric arm; and

rotatably connecting the eccentric arm to an output shaft of a gear box.

18. A method according to Claim 17 wherein moving the plunger further comprises:

providing a first shaft which is fixed in relation to the plunger;

providing a second shaft connected to a medial portion of the plunger; and

pivotally connecting the second shaft to the first shaft with a plurality of rocker arms.